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OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Rae Kwon CHUNG (Republic of Korea)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 19 September 1997, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled:

"Operational activities for development:

"(a) Operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

"(b) Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries"

and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 12th, 13th, 20th, 22nd, 26th, 46th and 47th meetings, on 20, 28, 29 and 31 October, and 2 and 5 December 1997. An account of the Committee's general discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/52/SR.12, 13, 20, 22, 26, 46 and 47). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 3rd to 9th meetings, from 13 to 16 October (see A/C.2/52/SR.3-9).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

Item 99 - Operational activities for development

(a) Report of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (A/52/39);[1]

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the comments of the Administrative Committee on Coordination on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (A/51/655-E/1996/105) entitled "Review of financial resources allocated by the United Nations system to activities of non-governmental organizations" (A/52/114-E/1997/46);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the comments of the Administrative Committee on Coordination on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (A/51/636-E/1996/104) entitled "Coordination of policy and programming frameworks for more effective development cooperation" (A/52/115-E/1997/47);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Coordination of policy and programming frameworks for more effective development cooperation" (A/51/636-E/1996/104);

(e) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Review of financial resources allocated by the United Nations system to activities by non-governmental organizations" (A/51/655);

(f) Letter dated 14 March 1997 from the representatives of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the text of the Almaty Declaration (A/52/112);

(g) Letter dated 29 August 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 29 August 1997 (A/52/318);

(h) Letter dated 23 September 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Marshall Islands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the communiqué of the twenty-eighth South Pacific Forum (A/52/413);

(i) Letter dated 2 October 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Okinawa Conference on Development (A/52/436);

(j) Letter dated 1 October 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the communiqué of the Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries to the fifty-second session of the General Assembly (A/52/447-S/1997/775);

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[1] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/52/39).

(k) Letter dated 13 October 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the Ministerial Declaration of the Group of 77 adopted on the occasion of the twenty-first annual meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 (A/52/460);

(l) Letter dated 11 November 1997 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/52/588);

(m) Letter dated 17 November from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the summary report of the Co-Chairmen of the Preparatory Conference of the Second Tokyo International Conference on African Development (A/C.2/52/9);

Item 99 (a) - Operational activities for development of the United Nations system

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on funding modalities of operational activities as requested by the Economic and Social Council (A/52/431);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Strengthening field representation of the United Nations system" (A/52/457) and the comments of the Administrative Committee on Coordination thereon (A/52/457/Add.1);

Item 99 (b) - Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community (A/52/400);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation (A/52/402);

(c) Letter dated 2 October 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Okinawa Conference on Development (A/52/436);

(d) Letter dated 4 November 1997 from the Permanent Representatives of Japan and Thailand to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the Bangkok Statement: Furthering Asia-Africa Cooperation, of the Second Asia-Africa Forum (A/52/572);

(e) Letter dated 14 November 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the San José Declaration and San José Plan of Action adopted by the Group of 77 at the South-South Conference on Trade, Investment and Finance (A/C.2/52/8).

4. At the 12th meeting, on 20 October, introductory statements were made by the Chief of the Operational Activities for Development Unit of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (under sub-item (a)), the Principal Officer of the Division on Globalization and Development Strategies of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (under sub-item (b)) and the Chairman of the Joint Inspection Unit (see A/C.2/52/SR.12).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/52/L.5 and A/C.2/52/L.46

5. At the 20th meeting, on 28 October, the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/52/L.5) entitled "Operational activities for development of the United Nations", which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 44/211 of 22 December 1989, 47/199 of 22 December 1992, 50/120 of 20 December 1995 and 50/227 of 24 May 1996, as well as Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/59 of 24 July 1997 and other relevant resolutions,

"Reaffirming that operational activities for development within the United Nations system have a critical and unique role to play in enabling developing countries to continue to take a lead in the management of their own development process,

"Recalling that the General Assembly is the highest intergovernmental mechanism for the formulation and appraisal of policy matters relating to the economic, social and related fields, in accordance with Chapter IX of the Charter of the United Nations, and that the functions and powers of the Economic and Social Council are provided for in Chapters IX and X of the Charter and are elaborated in relevant Assembly resolutions, including resolutions 45/264 of 13 May 1991 and 48/162 of 20 December 1993, in which the Assembly defined the relationship between the Assembly, the Council and the Executive Boards of the funds and programmes, in particular the Council function of overall guidance and coordination of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system,

"Stressing that the fundamental characteristics of the operational activities of the United Nations system should be, inter alia, their universal, voluntary and grant nature, their neutrality and their multilateralism, as well as their ability to respond to the needs of developing countries in a flexible manner, and that the operational activities of the United Nations system are carried out for the benefit of the developing countries, at the request of those countries and in accordance with their own policies and priorities for development,

"1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on funding modalities of operational activities as requested by the Economic and Social Council;[2]

"2. Expresses serious concern at the persistent insufficiency of resources for operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in particular the decline in contributions to core resources;

"3. Strongly reaffirms that the efficiency, effectiveness and impact of the operational activities of the United Nations system must be enhanced by, inter alia, a substantial increase in their funding on a predictable, continuous and assured basis, commensurate with the increasing needs of developing countries, as well as through the full implementation of all relevant resolutions in this regard;

"4. Welcomes the programme review being undertaken by the Executive Boards of the United Nations funds and programmes on their funding schemes, particularly of core resources, with a view to meeting their agreed upon target, reflecting the priorities and needs of programme countries, and increasing the target for voluntary contributions from official sources from the developed countries as the main source of funding of operational activities for the programming cycles, including the present cycle, and, in this regard, urges the Boards to complete the review as soon as possible and to report thereon to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1998;

"5. Acknowledges the supplementary role of non-core resources in financing United Nations operational activities for development;

"6. Requests the Secretary-General, when presenting his comprehensive report on the triennial policy review to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, to take into account intergovernmental response to his reform measures and proposals relevant to operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

"7. Requests the funds and programmes in their regular reporting to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, on the triennial policy review to include in their reports, in a clearly identifiable way, actions taken to implement the outcome of the intergovernmental process of the reform measures and proposals of the Secretary-General, including an analysis of the implications of reforms on their respective operational activities as well as on inter-agency coordination;

"8. Requests the Secretariat, by means of a questionnaire and where possible with the facilitation of resident coordinators, to continue the practice of seeking information from Member States on all issues to be considered at the triennial policy review;

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[2] A/52/431.

"9. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its fifty-third session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the functioning of the United Nations Development Group and its executive committee and their relationship with the existing standing inter-agency coordinating system, and to present therein any new intergovernmental liaison procedures aimed at enhancing transparency and accountability to the Assembly, as well as on continued compliance with the fundamental principles governing operational activities for development of the United Nations system."

6. At the 47th meeting, on 4 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Adel Abdellatif (Egypt), introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/52/L.46), submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.5.

7. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of New Zealand and the United Republic of Tanzania, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China (see A/C.2/52/SR.47).

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.46 (see para. 19, draft resolution I).

9. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.46, draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.5 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/52/L.7 and A/C.2/52/L.36

10. At the 26th meeting, on 31 October, the representative of South Africa, also on behalf of Angola, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho, Namibia, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, the Seychelles, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/52/L.7) entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community" and orally revised it as follows:

(a) The eleventh preambular paragraph was replaced by the following:

"Expressing its grave concern at the serious difficulties in the peace process in Angola, as a result of delays in the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol, which are hampering efforts for economic rehabilitation and national reconstruction as well as regional development projects";

(b) A new paragraph was added at the end of the preambular section, which read:

"Emphasizing the urgent need of the countries receiving refugees to be assisted by the international community so as to enable them to cope with the resulting economic, social humanitarian and environmental challenges";

(c) The words "which, together with other efforts, would facilitate the process of rehabilitation and reconstruction of the economy of Angola" were added at the end of operative paragraph 13.

The draft resolution, as orally revised, read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Reaffirming its resolution 37/248 of 21 December 1982, and all other relevant General Assembly resolutions on the promotion of cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community,

"Welcoming the strengthening of the Community through the admission of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Seychelles, as member States therein,

"Welcoming also the creation of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security as part of the Community, and its role in conflict prevention and maintenance of peace which are essential for development within the region,

"Recognizing the strengthening of democratic governance and other positive developments, the consolidation of the peace process, the enhancement of democracy and the respect for the rule of law in the region,

"Commending member States of the Community for demonstrating continued commitment to deeper and more formal arrangements for cooperation among themselves and towards the implementation of the Community's Programme of Action as well as its Community Building Programme,

"Reaffirming that the successful implementation of the development programmes of the Community can be achieved only if the Community has adequate resources at its disposal,

"Noting that the effects of war, loss of life and destruction of economic and social infrastructure in southern Africa demand the continuation and strengthening of rehabilitation programmes to regenerate the economies of the countries of the region,

"Noting with grave concern the recurrence of drought in the region and the high probability of the re-emergence of the El Niño phenomenon and the increase of poverty as a result, especially in rural communities,

"Welcoming with satisfaction the regional Food Security Strategy which regards poverty eradication as a prime concern, and in particular addresses the issues of improving access to food and nutrition,

"Recognizing the valuable and effective economic and financial contribution that some organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system have made to complementing national and subregional efforts to advance the process of democratization, rehabilitation and development in southern Africa,

"Expressing its grave concern at the serious difficulties in the peace process in Angola, as a result of delays in the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol, which are hampering efforts for economic rehabilitation and national reconstruction as well as regional development projects,

"Recognizing the risks and challenges posed by the process of globalization and liberalization on the economies of the region,

"Welcoming measures being taken by the Southern African Development Community in addressing the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) pandemic,

"Welcoming also the Declaration on Gender and Development adopted by the Community heads of State and/or Government in Blantyre, Malawi, on 8 September 1997, and recognizing the important role that women play in development in the region,

"Emphasizing the urgent need of the countries receiving refugees to be assisted by the international community so as to enable them to cope with the resulting economic, social humanitarian and environmental challenges,

"1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community;[3]

"2. Commends the Member States and the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system that have maintained, enhanced and initiated development cooperation with the Community;

"3. Calls upon the States Members of the United Nations and organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system that have not yet established contact and relationships with the Community to do so;

"4. Commends the members of the Community for the progress that has been achieved to date in implementing its programme of action;

"5. Expresses its appreciation to the international community for the financial, technical and material support given to the Community;

"6. Reiterates its appeal to the members of the international community to increase their financial, technical and material support to the Community so as to enable it to implement fully its programmes of action and to meet the reconstruction and rehabilitation needs of the region;

"7. Appeals to the international community and to relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to extend appropriate assistance to the Community in order to enable it to advance further the process of regional economic integration;

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[3] A/52/400.

"8. Welcomes the economic and political achievements and reforms undertaken within the Community, which are intended to better address the challenges of regional cooperation and integration now and into the next millennium;

"9. Also welcomes the Community declaration on anti-personnel landmines issued by the Community Summit in Blantyre, Malawi, on 8 September 1997, which would contribute greatly towards regional and international support for the signing of a total ban treaty in Ottawa, Canada, in December 1997, and appeals to the United Nations, its related bodies and the international community to assist and support the Community in its efforts to make the region a landmine-free zone;

"10. Appeals to the United Nations, its related organs and the international community to assist the Community, with the appropriate resources, in implementing the programmes and decisions adopted by various United Nations world conferences, with specific emphasis on the enhancement of the role of women in the development process;

"11. Appeals to the international community as well as to the United Nations system to continue to extend much-needed assistance to those countries of the Community that are engaged in the process of national reconstruction so as to enable them to consolidate their efforts to establish a democracy and enhance the implementation of their national development programmes;

"12. Expresses its appreciation for the substantial contributions of Member States, United Nations organizations and non-governmental organizations towards meeting the needs of the Angolan people and encourages additional substantial contributions;

"13. Appeals to the international community to comply with Security Council resolution 1127 (1997) on Angola which, together with other efforts, would facilitate the process of rehabilitation and reconstruction of the economy in Angola;

"14. Appeals to the United Nations and the international community to assist in the strengthening of the region's capacity for sustainable water resource management and to respond generously with respect to the drought situation in southern Africa so that famine may be averted in the region, by supporting the region in its drought preparedness and management strategies, especially through the strengthening of its capacity to deal with the situation, drought-monitoring early warning and preparedness;

"15. Appeals to the United Nations, its related organs and the international community to extend appropriate assistance to the Community Water Sector and to member States of the Community in order that they may advance further in the implementation of the Protocol on Shared Watercourse systems and in the preparations for the Community Water Sector Round-table Conference scheduled for October 1998;

"16. Calls upon the international community to support the creation of special economic zones and development corridors in the Community, especially the Maputo Development Corridor which is already under implementation with the active participation of the private sector;

"17. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Executive Secretary of the Community, to continue to intensify contacts aimed at promoting and harmonizing cooperation between the United Nations and the Community;

"18. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution."

11. At the 46th meeting, on 2 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Adel Abdellatif (Egypt), introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/52/L.36), submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.7.

12. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.36 (see para. 19, draft resolution II).

13. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.36, draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.7 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

C. Draft resolutions A/C.2/52/L.9 and A/C.2/52/L.44

14. At the 22nd meeting, on 29 October, the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/52/L.9) entitled "Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries", which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Reaffirming its resolutions 33/134 of 19 December 1978, in which it endorsed the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, 46/159 of 19 December 1991 on technical cooperation among developing countries, 49/96 of 19 December 1994 on a United Nations conference on South-South cooperation and 50/119 of 20 December 1995 on economic and technical cooperation among developing countries and a United Nations conference on South-South cooperation, as well as other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on economic and technical cooperation among developing countries,

"Reaffirming further that South-South cooperation constitutes an important element of international cooperation for development and is an essential basis for national and collective self-reliance as well as a means of ensuring the effective participation of the developing countries

in the world economy and that it is not a substitute for, but rather complementary to, North-South cooperation,

"Recognizing the fact that developing countries have the primary responsibility for promoting and implementing economic and technical cooperation among themselves, and reiterating the need for the international community to support the efforts of the developing countries to expand South-South cooperation through the modality of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries,

"Taking note of the decisions and recommendations contained in the Final Document of the Eleventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Countries,[4] held at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, in October 1995, and in this context welcoming the operationalization of the Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation, in Jakarta in 1998, and inviting all development partners to make use of and give support to the Centre,

"Taking note also of the Declaration adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 at their twenty-first annual meeting,[5] held in New York on 26 September 1997, in which the Ministers emphasized the increasing importance and complementarity of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries as a means of supporting and broadening the global partnership in international development cooperation,

"Welcoming the Declaration and Plan of Action adopted by the South-South Conference on Trade, Finance and Investment, held at San José, Costa Rica, from 15 to 19 January 1997, which outlined concrete modalities on sectoral issues relating to trade, finance, investment and enterprise cooperation,

"Welcoming further the outcome of the Asia-Africa Forum II, held at Bangkok in June 1997, as a mechanism to strengthen South-South cooperation, as well as the convening of the Second Tokyo International Conference on African Development in October 1998, and calling upon the international community to reaffirm its commitment in supporting Africa's development efforts;

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[4] See A/50/752-S/1995/1035, annex III; see Official Records of the Security Council, Fiftieth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1995, document S/1995/1035.

[5] A/52/460, annex.

"1. Endorses the report of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries on its tenth session[6] and the decisions adopted by the High-level Committee at that session;[7]

"2. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation,[8] which provides a comprehensive and systematic overview and analysis of economic cooperation among developing countries in the context of South-South cooperation worldwide and of United Nations system support for such cooperation;

"3. Takes note also of the draft revised Guidelines for the Review of Policies and Procedures concerning Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, submitted by the Administrative Committee on Coordination, and recommends that the draft revised Guidelines be submitted through the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session in the context of the triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

"4. Invites the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries of the United Nations Development Programme, as well as other relevant organizations, to jointly undertake further work on formulating concrete recommendations on the follow-up and implementation of the Declaration and Plan of Action adopted by the South-South Conference on Trade, Finance and Investment;

"5. Decides to intensify the process of strengthening the various interregional dialogues and the exchange of experiences among subregional and regional economic groupings for the purposes of expanding South-South cooperation through integrating the modalities of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries;

"6. Calls upon all Governments and relevant United Nations organizations, including the multilateral financial institutions, to consider increasing allocations of resources for economic and technical cooperation among developing countries and to identify and support innovative funding modalities to promote South-South cooperation, such as triangular cooperation and private sector funding;

"7. Welcomes the contribution made by some countries to the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation, and invites all countries, especially developed countries, to contribute generously to the Trust Fund;

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[6] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/52/39).

[7] Ibid., annex I.

[8] A/52/402.

"8. Urges all parties in the development cooperation to make concerted, coordinated and vigorous efforts towards mainstreaming the modalities of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries in their operational activities by providing full support in the design, formulation, implementation and evaluation of programmes and projects;

"9. Decides to hold a commemorative meeting during the fifty-third session of the General Assembly to mark the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries,[9] and to this end requests the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, in its capacity as substantive secretariat of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries as well as system-wide coordinator on technical cooperation among developing countries, to be responsible for the preparation and organization of the commemorative meeting, in consultation with the Member States and relevant organizations and agencies of the United Nations system;

"10. Also requests the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, in consultation with the Member States and relevant organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, to prepare and submit, through the Economic and Social Council for consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, a comprehensive assessment of the progress made in the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and its impact since its adoption, as well as recommendations for the broadening of the global partnership in international development cooperation and strengthening the integration of the modalities of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries, in the context of the triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

"11. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, in the context of the triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, on the implementation of the present resolution;

"12. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the sub-item entitled 'Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries'."

15. At the 47th meeting, on 2 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Adel Abdellatif (Egypt), introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/52/L.44), submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.9, and corrected the text in operative paragraph 4, in the sixth line, by inserting the words "San José" before the word "Declaration".

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[9] Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.

16. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.44, as orally corrected (see para. 19, draft resolution III).

17. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.44, draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.9 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

D. Draft decision

18. At the 47th meeting, on 4 December, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of a number of documents before it under the item (see para. 20).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

19. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Operational activities for development of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/211 of 22 December 1989, 47/199 of 22 December 1992, 50/120 of 20 December 1995 and 50/227 of 24 May 1996, as well as Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/59 of 24 July 1997 and other relevant resolutions,

Reaffirming that operational activities for development within the United Nations system have a critical and unique role to play in enabling developing countries to continue to take a lead in the management of their own development process, and that the funds and programmes constitute important vehicles for advancing international development cooperation,

Recalling that the General Assembly is the highest intergovernmental mechanism for the formulation and appraisal of policy matters relating to the economic, social and related fields, in accordance with Chapter IX of the Charter of the United Nations, and that the functions and powers of the Economic and Social Council are provided for in Chapters IX and X of the Charter and are elaborated in relevant Assembly resolutions, including resolutions 45/264 of 13 May 1991 and 48/162 of 20 December 1993, in which the Assembly defined the relationship between the Assembly, the Council and the Executive Boards of the funds and programmes, in particular the Council function of overall guidance and coordination of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system,

Stressing that the fundamental characteristics of the operational activities of the United Nations system should be, inter alia, their universal, voluntary and grant nature, their neutrality and their multilateralism, as well as their ability to respond to the needs of developing countries in a flexible

manner, and that the operational activities of the United Nations system are carried out for the benefit of the developing countries, at the request of those countries and in accordance with their own policies and priorities for development,

Recognizing the need to take into account the individual mandates and complementarities of the organizations and bodies of the United Nations development system, and the priorities agreed in the Executive Boards of the funds and programmes,

Expressing serious concern at the persistent insufficiency of resources for operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in particular the decline in contributions to core resources,

Recognizing the need for priority allocation for scarce grant resources to programmes and projects in low-income countries, in particular the least developed countries,

Recognizing that the United Nations development system should take into account the specific needs and requirements of the countries with economies in transition,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on funding modalities of operational activities, as requested by the Economic and Social Council;[10]

2. Strongly reaffirms the need for a substantial increase in resources for operational activities for development on a predictable, continuous and assured basis, commensurate with the increasing needs of the developing countries;

3. Stresses the need for a continuous overall improvement in the effectiveness, efficiency and impact of the United Nations system in delivering its development assistance, and welcomes steps which have been taken towards that end;

4. Stresses that other countries that are in a position to do so should strive to augment their assistance in the framework of development cooperation;

5. Recalls that the Executive Boards of the United Nations funds and programmes, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/227, should initiate work on reviewing their funding policies and strategies with a view to meeting their agreed upon targets, particularly of core resources as the main source of funding of operational activities;

6. Calls upon the governing bodies of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund and the World Food Programme to adopt a specific and achievable target for

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[10] A/52/431.

core resources for the period 1999/2001, taking into account the relationship between their programme arrangements and financial plans;

7. Urges the Executive Boards to complete the review as soon as possible, and to report thereon to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1998;

8. Acknowledges the supplementary role of non-core resources in enhancing the financing of the United Nations operational activities for development;

9. Requests the Secretary-General, when presenting his comprehensive report on the triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system at the fifty-third session of the General Assembly, to consider the implications of steps adopted by the United Nations system to implement reform initiatives on operational activities, and to make recommendations for their effective and expeditious implementation, bearing in mind the views of Member States;

10. Also requests the funds and programmes in their regular reporting on the triennial policy review to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council, to include in their reports, to the extent possible and in a clearly identifiable way, actions taken to implement adopted reform measures of the Secretary-General, including an analysis of the implications of those reforms for operational activities as well as for inter-agency coordination;

11. Welcomes the ongoing efforts of the Secretariat to seek information from Member States on all issues to be considered by the triennial policy review, invites Member States to actively participate in that important data-collection exercise, including through timely completion of the relevant questionnaire, and to the extent needed requests the resident coordinators to facilitate its successful implementation;

12. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, through the Economic and Social Council, a comprehensive analysis of the implementation of its resolution 50/120, as well as subsequent relevant decisions and resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, in the context of the triennial policy review, and to make appropriate recommendations.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 37/248 of 31 December 1982, and all other relevant General Assembly resolutions on the promotion of cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community,

Welcoming the strengthening of the Community through the admission of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Seychelles, as member States therein,

Welcoming also the creation of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security as part of the Community, and its role in conflict prevention and maintenance of peace which are essential for development within the region,

Recognizing the strengthening of democratic governance and other positive developments, the consolidation of the peace process, the enhancement of democracy and the respect for the rule of law in the region,

Commending member States of the Community for demonstrating continued commitment to deeper and more formal arrangements for cooperation among themselves,

Reaffirming that the successful implementation of the development programmes of the Community can be achieved only if the Community has adequate resources at its disposal,

Noting that the effects of war, loss of life and destruction of economic and social infrastructure in southern Africa demand the continuation and strengthening of rehabilitation programmes to regenerate the economies of the countries of the region,

Noting with grave concern the recurrence of drought in the areas, the re-emergence of the El Niño phenomenon, with its probable effect of drought, and the risk of increased poverty, in particular in rural areas,

Welcoming with satisfaction the regional Food Security Strategy which regards poverty eradication as a prime concern, and in particular addresses the issues of improving access to food and nutrition,

Recognizing the valuable and effective economic and financial contribution that some organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system have made to complementing national and subregional efforts to advance the process of democratization, rehabilitation and development in southern Africa,

Noting that the situation in Angola has recently become a source of great concern and that, despite earlier successes in the implementation of certain aspects of the Angolan peace process, that situation is still deteriorating,

Expressing its grave concern at the serious difficulties in the peace process in Angola, caused primarily by the slowness of the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola in the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol,[11] which are hampering efforts towards economic rehabilitation and national reconstruction as well as regional development projects,

Recognizing the risks, new challenges and opportunities posed by the process of globalization and liberalization on the economies of the region,

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[11] S/1994/1441, annex.

Noting the measures being taken by the Community in addressing the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) pandemic,

Welcoming the recognition at the regional level of the important role that women play in the development of the region and taking note of the Declaration on Gender and Development adopted by the Community heads of State and/or Government in Blantyre, Malawi, on 8 September 1997,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community;[12]

2. Commends the Member States and the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system that have maintained, enhanced and initiated development cooperation with the Community;

3. Calls upon the States Members of the United Nations and organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system that have not yet established contact and relationships with the Community to explore the possibility of doing so;

4. Expresses its appreciation to the international community for the financial, technical and material support given to the Community;

5. Renews its appeal to the international community to maintain current levels of, and increase where appropriate, its financial, technical and material support to the Community in order to enable it to implement fully its programme of action and to meet the reconstruction and rehabilitation needs of the region;

6. Appeals to the international community and to relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to extend appropriate assistance to the Community in order to enable it to advance further the process of regional economic integration;

7. Welcomes the economic and political achievements and reforms undertaken within the Community, including the implementation of its programme of action, which are intended to better address the challenges of regional cooperation and integration now and into the next millennium;

8. Also welcomes the Community's efforts to make southern Africa a landmine-free zone, which resulted from a decision of the Community to de-mine the region and reclaim the land for productive purposes, and in this context takes note of the Community's Declaration on Anti-personnel Landmines issued by the Community Summit in Blantyre, Malawi, on 8 September 1997, and appeals to the United Nations, its related bodies and the international community to assist and support the Community in its efforts;

9. Appeals to the United Nations, its related organs and the international community to assist the Community, with the appropriate resources, in implementing the programmes and decisions adopted by various United Nations

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[12] A/52/400.

world conferences, with specific emphasis on the enhancement of the role of women in the development process;

10. Appeals to the international community as well as to the United Nations system to continue to extend much-needed assistance to those countries of the Community that are engaged in the process of national reconstruction so as to enable them to consolidate their efforts to establish a democracy and enhance the implementation of their national development programmes;

11. Expresses its appreciation for the substantial contributions of Member States, United Nations organizations and non-governmental organizations towards meeting the needs of the Angolan people and encourages additional substantial contributions;

12. Appeals to the international community to comply with all relevant Security Council resolutions on Angola pertaining to the peace process, which, together with other efforts, would facilitate the process of rehabilitation and reconstruction of the Angolan economy;

13. Expresses its conviction of the importance of sound, inclusive development strategies to avoid conflict and dislocation, recognizes the value of international cooperation, peacemaking and peacekeeping efforts, and stresses the need for the international community to continue to assist those countries receiving refugees in coping with the resulting economic, social, humanitarian and environmental challenges;

14. Appeals to the United Nations and the international community to assist in the strengthening of the region's capacity for sustainable water resource management and to respond generously with respect to the drought situation in southern Africa so that famine may be averted in the region, by supporting the region in its drought preparedness and management strategies, especially through the strengthening of its capacity to deal with the situation, drought-monitoring early warning and preparedness;

15. Appeals to the United Nations, its related organs and the international community to extend appropriate assistance to the Community Water Sector and to member States of the Community in order that they may advance further in the implementation of the Protocol on Shared Watercourse Systems and in their preparations for the Community Water Sector Round-table Conference scheduled for October 1998;

16. Calls upon the international community to consider supporting the creation of special economic zones and development corridors in the Community, especially the Maputo Development Corridor which is already under implementation with the active participation of the private sector;

17. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Executive Secretary of the Community, to continue to intensify contacts aimed at promoting and harmonizing cooperation between the United Nations and the Community;

18. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

DRAFT RESOLUTION III

Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 33/134 of 19 December 1978, in which it endorsed the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries,[13] 46/159 of 19 December 1991 on technical cooperation among developing countries, 49/96 of 19 December 1994 on a United Nations conference on South-South cooperation and 50/119 of 20 December 1995 on economic and technical cooperation among developing countries and a United Nations conference on South-South cooperation, as well as other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on economic and technical cooperation among developing countries,

Reaffirming further that South-South cooperation constitutes an important element of international cooperation for development and is an essential basis for national and collective self-reliance as well as a means of ensuring the effective integration and participation of the developing countries in the world economy and that it is not a substitute for, but rather complementary to, North-South cooperation,

Recognizing the fact that developing countries have the primary responsibility for promoting and implementing economic and technical cooperation among themselves, and reiterating the need for the international community to support the efforts of the developing countries to expand South-South cooperation through the modality of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries,

Taking note of the decisions and recommendations contained in the Final Document of the Eleventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Countries,[14] held at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, in October 1995, and in this context welcoming the operationalization of the Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation, in Jakarta in 1998, and inviting all development partners to make use of and give support, as appropriate, to the Centre,

Also taking note of the Declaration adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 at their twenty-first annual meeting,[15] held in

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[13] Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.

[14] See A/50/752-S/1995/1035, annex III; see Official Records of the Security Council, Fiftieth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1995, document S/1995/1035.

[15] A/52/460, annex.

New York on 26 September 1997, in which the Ministers emphasized the increasing importance and complementarity of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries as a means of supporting and broadening the global partnership in international development cooperation,

Welcoming the San José Declaration and Plan of Action[16] adopted by the South-South Conference on Trade, Finance and Investment, held at San José, Costa Rica, from 15 to 19 January 1997, which outlined concrete modalities on sectoral issues relating to trade, finance, investment and enterprise cooperation,

Also welcoming the outcome of the Second Asia-Africa Forum,[17] held at Bangkok from 11 to 13 June 1997, as a mechanism to strengthen South-South cooperation, as well as the convening of the Second Tokyo International Conference on African Development in Japan in October 1998,[18] and calling upon the international community to reaffirm its commitment in supporting Africa's development efforts,

1. Endorses the report of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries on its tenth session[19] and the decisions adopted by the High-level Committee as contained in annex I of its report;[20]

2. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation,[21] which provides a comprehensive and systematic overview and analysis of economic cooperation among developing countries in the context of South-South cooperation worldwide and of United Nations system support for such cooperation;

3. Also takes note of the draft revised Guidelines for the Review of Policies and Procedures concerning Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, submitted by the Administrative Committee on Coordination, and recommends that the draft revised Guidelines be submitted through the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session in the context of the triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

4. Invites the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries of the United

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[16] A/C.2/52/8, annex.

[17] See A/52/572.

[18] See A/C.2/52/9.

[19] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/52/39).

[20] Ibid., annex I.

[21] A/52/402.

Nations Development Programme, as well as other relevant organizations, taking into account their agreed mandates, work programmes and priorities, to jointly undertake further work on formulating concrete recommendations on the follow-up and implementation of the San José Declaration and Plan of Action[16] adopted by the South-South Conference on Trade, Finance and Investment;

5. Stresses the need to intensify the process of strengthening the various interregional dialogues and the exchange of experiences among subregional and regional economic groupings for the purposes of expanding South-South cooperation through integrating the modalities of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries;

6. Calls upon all Governments and relevant United Nations organizations, including the multilateral financial institutions, to consider increasing allocations for economic and technical cooperation among developing countries and to identify new funding modalities to promote South-South cooperation, such as triangular cooperation and private sector funding;

7. Welcomes the contribution made by some countries to the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation, and invites all countries, including developed countries, to contribute to the Trust Fund;

8. Urges the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and invites other relevant intergovernmental organizations involved in international development cooperation to make concerted and vigorous efforts to mainstream the implementation of modalities of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries by giving them full consideration in the design, formulation, implementation and evaluation of programmes and projects in their operational activities;

9. Decides to hold a one-day commemorative meeting at the beginning of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly, in accordance with the relevant paragraphs of the first report of the General Committee,[22] to mark the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries,[13] and to that effect requests the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, in its capacity as substantive secretariat of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and system-wide coordinator on technical cooperation among developing countries, to be responsible for the preparation and organization of the commemorative meeting, including the provision of adequate documentation, in consultation with Member States and relevant organizations and agencies of the United Nations system;

10. Also decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session an item entitled "Commemorative meeting of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries";

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[22] A/52/250.

11. Requests the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and in consultation with Member States and relevant organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, to incorporate in his report for the triennial policy review of operational activities for development for consideration at the fifty-third session of the General Assembly, an assessment and recommendations aimed at further strengthening the integration of the modalities of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries in the operational activities of the United Nations system, with a view to enhancing the global partnership in international development cooperation;

12. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the sub-item entitled "Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries", and in that context requests the Secretary-General to report to it at that session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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20. The Second Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Documents relating to operational activities for development

The General Assembly takes note of the following documents:

(a) Report of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries;[23]

(b) Report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Review of financial resources allocated by the United Nations system to activities of non-governmental organizations"[24] and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the comments of the Administrative Committee on Coordination thereon;[25]

(c) Report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Coordination of policy and programming frameworks for more effective development cooperation"[26] and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the comments of the Administrative Committee on Coordination thereon;[27]

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[23] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/52/39).

[24] A/51/655-E/1996/105.

[25] A/52/114-E/1997/46.

[26] A/51/636-E/1996/104.

[27] A/52/115-E/1997/47.

(d) Report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Strengthening field representation of the United Nations system"[28] and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the comments of the Administrative Committee on Coordination thereon.[29]

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[28] A/52/457.

[29] A/52/457/Add.1.